5

5

10

15

20



## METHODS, SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS FOR POLICY BASED DISTRIBUTION OF WORKLOAD TO SUBSETS OF POTENTIAL SERVERS

## Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods, systems and computer program products according to embodiments of the present invention provide distributing workload between a plurality of data processing systems in a cluster of data processing systems, wherein each of the plurality of data processing systems is executing an instance of an application which communicates over a network such that a connection request to the application may be distributed to any one of the plurality of data processing systems. workload distribution may be provided by defining a subset of the plurality of data processing systems which are to receive connection requests to the application having at least one predefined characteristic. A request for a connection to the application is received over the network and it is determined if the request has a characteristic corresponding to the characteristic associated with the subset of the plurality of data processing systems. The request is distributed to a data processing system in the subset of the plurality of data processing systems if the request has a characteristic corresponding to the predefined characteristic.